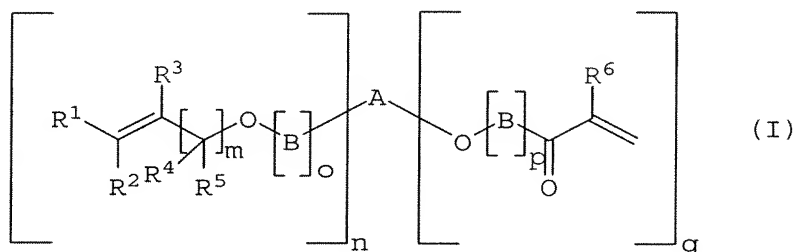


# IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) A (meth)acrylic ester of an alkoxyated unsaturated polyol ether of a general formula (I)



wherein

$R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ , and  $R^5$  are each independently hydrogen or  $C_1$  to  $C_6$  alkyl, of which  $C_3$  to  $C_6$  alkyl may be branched or unbranched,

$R^6$  is hydrogen or methyl,

m is an integer from 0 to 10,

n is an integer from 1 to 5,

o is an integer from 0 to 100,

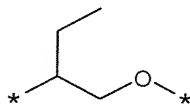
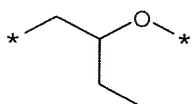
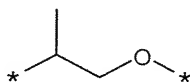
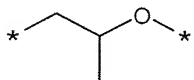
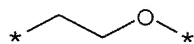
p is an integer from 2 to 100,

q is an integer from 1 to 5,

A is  $C_3$  to  $C_{20}$ alk(n+q)yl or  $C_3$  to  $C_{20}$  heteroalk(n+q)yl,

wherein a sum total of n and q is an integer from 3 to 10, and

B represents identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of



wherein \* identifies positions of attachment.

2. (Withdrawn) The (meth)acrylic ester of an alkoxyated unsaturated polyol ether of claim 1 wherein

$R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ , and  $R^5$  are each hydrogen,

$R^6$  is hydrogen or methyl,

m is 0 or 1,

n is an integer from 1 to 3,

o is an integer from 0 to 20,

p is an integer from 3 to 40,

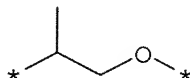
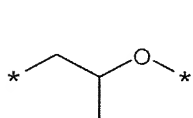
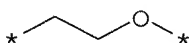
q is an integer from 1 to 3,

A is  $C_3$  to  $C_{10}$ alk(n+q)yl,

wherein the sum total of n and q is an integer from 3 to 5, and

B represents identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting

of



wherein \* identifies the positions of attachment.

3. (Withdrawn) The (meth)acrylic ester of an alkoxyated unsaturated polyol ether of claim 1 wherein

$R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ , and  $R^5$  are each hydrogen,

$R^6$  is hydrogen or methyl,

m is 1,

n is 1 or 2,

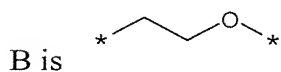
o is 0,

p is an integer from 5 to 20,

q is 1 or 2,

A is  $C_3$  to  $C_{6\text{alk}(n+q)\text{yl}}$ ,

wherein the sum total of n and q is 3, and



wherein \* identifies positions of attachment.

4. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing a (meth)acrylic ester of an alkoxyated unsaturated polyol ether of claim 1 comprising the steps of

a) reacting the alkoxyated unsaturated polyether with (meth)acrylic acid in the presence of at least one esterification catalyst, at least one polymerization inhibitor, and optionally a water-azeotroping solvent to form the (meth)acrylic ester of the unsaturated polyol ether,

b) optionally removing from the reaction mixture some or all of the water formed in a), during and/or after a),

c) optionally neutralizing the reaction mixture, and

d) when a solvent is used, optionally removing the solvent.

5. (Previously presented) A swellable hydrogel-forming polymer comprising a copolymerized (meth)acrylic ester of general formula (I) according to claim 1 as an internal crosslinker.

6. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing a crosslinked swellable hydrogel-forming polymer which comprises polymerizing an aqueous mixture comprising a hydrophilic monomer, optionally at least one further monoethylenically unsaturated compound, at least one (meth)acrylic ester of an alkoxyated unsaturated polyol ether of general formula (I) of claim 1, at least one free-radical initiator, optionally at least one grafting base, and optionally the hydrogel-forming polymer obtained being postcrosslinked, dried, and brought to a desired particle size.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) A hygiene article comprising a crosslinked swellable hydrogel-forming polymer of claim 5.

9. (Previously presented) A swellable hydrogel-forming polymer comprising a copolymerized (meth)acrylic ester of general formula (I) according to claim 2 as an internal crosslinker.

10. (Previously presented) A swellable hydrogel-forming polymer comprising a copolymerized (meth)acrylic ester of general formula (I) according to claim 3 as an internal crosslinker.

11. (Previously presented) A hygiene article comprising a crosslinked swellable hydrogel-forming polymer of claim 9.

12. (Previously presented) A hygiene article comprising a crosslinked swellable hydrogel-forming polymer of claim 10.

13. (New) The swellable hydrogel-forming polymer of claim 5 wherein the (meth)acrylic ester of general formula (I) according to claim 1 is copolymerized with an acid functional monoethylenically unsaturated monomer, a salt thereof, or mixtures thereof.

14. (New) The swellable hydrogel-forming polymer of claim 13 wherein the acid functional monoethylenically unsaturated monomer comprises acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, or mixtures thereof.

15. (New) The swellable hydrogel-forming polymer of claim 9 wherein the (meth)acrylic ester of general formula (I) according to claim 2 is copolymerized with an acid functional monoethylenically unsaturated monomer, a salt thereof, or mixtures thereof.

16. (New) The swellable hydrogel-forming polymer of claim 15 wherein the acid functional monoethylenically unsaturated monomer comprises acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, or mixtures thereof.

17. (New) The swellable hydrogel-forming polymer of claim 10 wherein the (meth)acrylic ester of general formula (I) according to claim 3 is copolymerized with an acid functional monoethylenically unsaturated monomer, a salt thereof, or mixtures thereof.

18. (New) The swellable hydrogel-forming polymer of claim 17 wherein the acid functional monoethylenically unsaturated monomer comprises acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, or mixtures thereof.